

L.J. - Sunoco. Tuesday, April 13, 1943. 13th

The day-by-day stories of a great Japanese concentration of power in the southwestern Pacific comes to a climax today in an Australian dispatch that the Japs have massed two hundred thousand troops at their bases north of Australia and have hugely increased their air strength. And today's ~~dispatch~~<sup>ward</sup> from ~~General~~ MacArthur's headquarters ~~in Australia~~ gives warning that a full scale enemy assault may be launched at any time.

An estimate of the situation is given by General Sir Thomas Blamey, Commander of Allied ground troops under ~~General~~ MacArthur. His thesis is that the Japs lost a lot of face by the defeats in the Coral Sea, at Midway, Guadalcanal, New Guinea, <sup>and</sup> the Bismarck Sea. Their pride is hurt, and they have assembled forces to do something to retrieve their injured prestige.

General Blamey explained that during recent months, the United Nations have won the dominance of the air in the southwestern Pacific, and this the Japs intend to challenge. <sup>Which</sup> ~~That~~ is why they have been massing planes, and launching a series of big time air attacks. They hurled ninety-eight planes against Tulagi, forty-five against Oro Bay, then the latest - a hundred planes against Port Moresby. This happened yesterday, when the Japs lost fifty-two aircraft shot down.

In all the recent raids, they have lost ninety-seven. Figuring from the reports that have come in, our own loss was only nine - giving us a ratio of better than ten-to-one. That would seem to be mighty encouraging; but, what we get is a stern warning, a warning that the Japs have concentrated a great abundance of strength, troops and planes, and seem to be up to something.

## AFRICA

In North Africa things have pretty well shaped themselves for a final battle - the Nazis' last stand at the tip of Tunisia. Today, the forces of the United Nations, British, Americans, French, continued to push forward - tightening the ring around the beleaguered Axis army in its fortified stronghold - Tunis-Bizerte

The British Eighth Army, moving up from the south, <sup>has</sup> ~~have~~ thrust to a point twenty miles above the captured holy city of Kairouan. And north in the Tunisian tip, the British First Army scored advances today. So did the Americans and the French. Rommel's Afrika Korps is trying to slow down the Allies by means of minefields and rear guard resistance, to give more time for the last stand.

Students of history will be reminded that the tip of Tunisia is the site of ~~the~~ ancient ~~city~~ Carthage, which was near the present naval base at

Bizerte. There, in a memorable siege, the Romans drew their lines around the Carthaginian stronghold, and the record of war knows of no more bitter siege than the one that ensued. Modern battles being on a scale so much larger, the present-day replica of the fall of Carthage includes, not merely a town and citadel, but the general area of the ancient Carthaginian homeland. *But* in many respects, the antique story is repeated.

The estimates are that the Axis have some two hundred and ten to two hundred and twenty thousand men in the pocket at the tip of Tunisia. ~~About a hundred and fifty thousand of these are Germans, the rest Italians. During the Tunisian fighting of the past five months, more than thirty three thousand enemy ~~prisi~~ prisoners have been captured according to the best figures available.~~

Meanwhile, Allied air ~~force~~<sup>men</sup> continue to strike at Italy. We hear of two more American ~~bomber~~ raids against Naples, ~~They were~~<sup>by Doolittle's Bombers.</sup> Daylight affairs, and ~~smashed~~<sup>ing</sup> at the largest port that the Nazis in Tunisia can depend on for badly needed supplies.

ENGLAND

In the London House of Commons today, some bitter words were spoken, and your Uncle Sam was in the thick of a blistering <sup>verbal</sup> blaze. ~~of words~~. This country was angrily assailed, and the assailant was just as scathingly denounced. <sup>π</sup> The violent critic of America was Captain Alec Cunningham-Reid, who got up <sup>and</sup> said that the United States <sup>does</sup> ~~is~~ not appreciate what Great Britain has done in the war. He contended that if it hadn't been for Britain's gallant defense, Americans would now be under the domination of Nazi Germany. ~~and~~ <sup>he</sup> used these ironical words:- "if it were not for the little incident known as the Battle of Britain." That is what saved America, <sup>he</sup> said he; and <sup>he</sup> added: "It is most regrettable that Americans have a perverted view of British achievements and British aims."

He went on to state that a new form of isolationism is developing in the United States, and

added that certain American elements want to take Canada, and  
^ acquire British bases in the Atlantic and Pacific.

Captain Alec Cunningham-Reid got around to his climax when he charged America with aiming at worldwide domination of the air and a monopoly of world commerce.

In other words, your Uncle Sam was given a thorough going-over by the honorable gentleman, who, in turn, was skinned alive by another M.P. - Brendan Bracken, British Minister of Information, <sup>who</sup> ~~he~~ described the Cunningham-Reid statements with these words;-

"a story of distilled insults to the United States."

<sup>As</sup> ~~As~~ for Americans not appreciating Britain's part

in the war, <sup>Brendan Bracken</sup> ~~he~~ referred to American news men who

covered the bombings of London <sup>on</sup> "Where was Captain Alec

Cunningham-Reid at that time? "Beach-combing in

Honolulu during the Battle of Britain," said ~~max~~ the

Minister of Information. It seems that the honorable

gentleman was indeed in Honolulu at the time, a guest of American heiress Doris Duke Cromwell - who has a fabulous estate in ~~Hawaii~~ Hawaii. However, the beach-combing ~~was~~ <sup>there would</sup> hardly remind you of the old-time derelict who grubbed a living on a South Sea shore. <sup>It</sup> <sup>was</sup> beach-combing de luxe - as Captain Alec Cunningham-Reid can tell you, after his sojourn as a guest there during the bombing of Britain.

Rather savage. But such was the verbal exchange in the stately House of Commons;



## GOSSIP

Something of a mystery story was related today by Rear Admiral Train, Director of Naval Intelligence.

The Admiral and his intelligence officers are expert at the unraveling of enigmas, and here is an example of the problems that come their way.

Out in the Atlantic, a merchant vessel loaded with war supplies was torpedoed by a German submarine. The crew took to life rafts, and presenting the U-boat appeared on the surface. The Germans took the captain of the freighter aboard the submarine. There, the U-boat skipper addressed him by his full name - ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ which certainly surprised the American captain. The more so - because he had been assigned to the vessel only two hours before sailing. He was a replacement. The captain, who was to have commanded the craft, had become suddenly unavailable, and a substitute had been put in. Yet, the U-boat skipper knew his name in full.

Not only that - he proceeded to mention the port from which the freighter had sailed, the destination to which it was bound, and the exact nature of its cargo.

2 <sup>π</sup> Now where had the undersea prowler acquired all of that <sup>had of Naval Intelligence,</sup> precise information? Admiral Train today gave the answer:

~~Naval Intelligence disclosed~~  
~~that~~ Just before the

American ship sailed, a sailor of the crew went to a neighborhood bar, and there he blabbed a few loose words.

Enemy espionage was waiting for just that sort of thing -

<sup>and an</sup> <sup>was</sup>  
~~an~~ American ship <sup>^</sup>doomed.

<sup>Says</sup> Admiral Train, ~~points the following moral:~~

~~There are~~ <sup>many</sup> enemy agents still in this country.

~~picking up and relaying information unwittingly~~

~~carelessly provided by loose-talking Americans.~~ In

<sup>So</sup>  
~~other words~~ - <sup>^</sup> don't gossip.

## FOOD CONFERENCE

The question of the news men and the forthcoming United Nations Food Conference has produced still another angle - the conference and the Senators. ~~If reporters are to be barred from the United Nations gathering, should not representatives of the Senators<sup>2</sup> be let in?~~

~~The whole thing began when the President suggested that the men ~~of~~ the news be kept away from the conference. That aroused a good deal of protest, and then we heard that reporters would be permitted to cover the story. Which, in turn, was followed by a sort of~~

~~compromise~~ - ~~The United Nations get-together~~<sup>is</sup> to be held at Hot Springs, Virginia, where there are mighty few facilities for news gathering, and where the reporters would be allowed to attend only the opening and closing sessions.

~~Today these restrictions were criticized in~~

~~the Senate, and suggestions were made that legislators of the upper House should be permitted to attend the United Nations Food Conference. It was pointed out that the United Nations affairs are likely to lead to treaties and these will have to be confirmed by the Senate. And food agreements will need legislation, which the Senate must pass.~~

<sup>Sen.</sup>  
Today <sup>^</sup>George of Georgia deplored the barring of newsmen from the conference, and Gillette of Iowa hoped that Senators would be invited to attend. "I would dislike to have us demand representation," said he, "but it would be courteous and helpful if the State Department came forward of its own volition."

~~It all summed up in a demand that public information should be given about the deliberations of the United Nations. Willis of Indiana <sup>put it this way:</sup> said, "There should be a considerable amount of freedom of~~

~~information he said, if there is to be a people's~~  
~~peace.~~ And Nye of North Dakota called for "a Fifth  
Freedom, Freedom of Information."

Here is the latest:- Congressman Bradley of  
Michigan has introduced a resolution <sup>calling for</sup> ~~according to~~  
~~which~~ the United <sup>Nations</sup> ~~States~~ Food Conference <sup>to</sup> ~~will~~ be  
reported by the representatives of the three big  
news associations and attended by a joint congressional  
committee of senators and Congressmen.

## ALCATRAZ

Even with all the violence of war dinning in our ears every day, there is still a resonant ring in the phrase - "escape from Alcatraz." It was tried again today - a prison break at the Rock, that prison fortress in San Francisco Bay which is regarded as escape-proof.

Only two convicts have ever got <sup>ten</sup> out of Alcatraz, and they are not regarded as having escaped - at least not by the prison wardens. This happened six years ago, when two prisoners sawed the bars of their windows, and got off the island - and out into the water. But the swift and treacherous currents off Alcatraz are considered to be no less a barrier than the prison walls - too difficult for escaping convicts to swim. ~~There have been rumors that the two who got out half a dozen years ago really made their way to the mainland and have been reported at various places, Oklahoma and South America. But the prison authorities place no stock in that,~~

~~and believe the two were drowned in the currents off Alcatraz.~~

The story of today's prison break repeats a phrase that once was so familiar - "public enemy Number One." Time was back in the gangster era when Floyd Hamilton, the Texas desperado, was Number One on the public enemy list. He was captured, and sentenced to thirty years of Alcatraz. And he it was who led the attempted escape today. <sup>TP</sup> There were four in all. They made a sudden attack on two guards, over-powered them, ran to the shore of the island and dived in. Guards were vigilant, and a hail of bullets followed them. A prison launch went speeding out, and one was recaptured, a Philadelphia kidnaper and bank robber named Brest. <sup>TP</sup> He tells how he was swimming with another of the escapers, Boarman by name. The latter was hit by a bullet, ~~and~~ disabled. The Pennsylvania desperado

supported him in the water, did so as long as he could -  
and then had to let ~~him~~ go. The other convict sank  
immediately.

*This*  
~~All of which~~ accounts for two of the four

jail breakers. The other two are believed to have ~~sunk~~ *been*

*swept under by*

~~the~~ currents off Alcatraz. One of them - Floyd

Hamilton who used to be rated as Public Enemy Number One.



## JEFFERSON

The visitor to Washington nowadays will see a multitude of new buildings, and of these there is one that catches and holds the eye. It is of gleaming white marble, exceedingly simple, Roman in character, with a dome. It is, in fact, modeled on the lines of the Pantheon, ~~in Rome~~ <sup>And</sup> that is appropriate - for Rome's two thousand year old Pantheon was a structure ~~admired~~ greatly admired by Thomas Jefferson, who himself was a talented architect. And ~~the~~ new building in Washington is the Jefferson Memorial.

Today it was dedicated - on the Two Hundredth Birthday of the author of the Declaration of Independence. President Roosevelt presided, and spoke the dedicatory address. There was one point the President made that seemed to me particularly apt and timely. ~~He spoke of how much Thomas Jefferson of the Revolutionary War, Jefferson the third President of the~~

~~United States, means to us today, at this moment -  
more, actually, than he meant to previous Americans.~~

~~The President~~ <sup>He</sup> repeated the idea twice. Once he said:

"Our generation of Americans can understand much in Jefferson's life which intervening generations could not see as well as we." Then later he put it in these words: "Jefferson ~~across a hundred and fifty years of~~ ~~time~~ is closer to living men than many of our leaders in the years between."

That made me start thinking, trying to figure - what point of Jefferson's philosophy would mean so much more to us than it could have meant to Americans of some while back? <sup>Here is one angle that occurred to me:-</sup> And ~~this seemed to be one angle~~

Jefferson's vision of the human being in a state of liberty, the free human being confronting the universe as an individual on his own. A couple of generations ago, <sup>this</sup> ~~life~~ was pretty much taken for granted, but

nowadays we have to fight against theories that picture human beings as a herd, with each as a mere submerged unit of the mass, which in turn is governed by despotism. In other words, totalitarianism. ~~In this life,~~ <sup>So</sup> Jefferson's concept of the free man facing the universe becomes, not a statement of the obvious, but a fighting slogan. And we <sup>can see, moreover, that it</sup> ~~who today confront the herd theories of totalitarianism, can see all the better that the Jefferson thesis of liberty~~ is just another form of the simple Christian principle of the human soul and its individual responsibility, ~~in the face of the universe.~~

That, I believe, is one of the things <sup>which</sup> ~~is~~ makes Thomas Jefferson so <sup>much alive</sup> ~~very timely~~ for us in these wartimes, Jefferson who said - as the President quoted him today: "I have sworn, upon the altar of God, eternal hostility against any form of tyranny over the mind of man."

ADD JEFFERSON

Yesterday I passed through Charlottesville, Virginia, famous as the home of Thomas Jefferson *and the site of* ~~and~~ his beloved Monticello. On the way into Washington I met three of the officials of Charlottesville, who were bound for the nation's capital to take part in the ceremony dedicating the magnificent Jefferson Memorial. The City Manager, Seth Burnley, Postmaster Pete Perry, and Head of the Ration Board, "Foots" Dettor, *They all* said they had hoped the Jefferson Memorial would be erected ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ *in their town,* but that they were reconciled to having it in Washington, D.C., in the same group with the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. ~~I suppose, just as I have, you have heard Jefferson's home, pronounced Monti-sello and Monti-chello. *Well* They said~~ Jefferson himself had always pronounced it Monticello, ~~which means a small mountain.~~

These eminent gentlemen from the home of Jefferson said that ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ *until the* second World War complicated matters, more than one hundred thousand

visitors, from all over the world were visiting Charlottesville each year, to go through Monticello. And they prophesy that as soon as this war is over ~~the American people will be travelling more than ever before, and they are looking forward to welcoming~~ two hundred thousand visitors a year <sup>will visit</sup> to the shrine of Jefferson, his own home, in Charlottesville.

1/2  
Postmaster Perry then told me the interesting effect which he said this broadcast had had on a little girl in Thomas Jefferson's home town. Her name is Betty Newman. And, from the time she was a little baby, her parents apparently tuned me in each evening at six:forty-five. Betty became so accustomed to my closing words that she adopted them in her prayers. Said Postmater Perry, Betty would pray: "Dear Lord, take care of Mummy and Daddy, help me to be a good little girl, and now, dear Lord, So Long Until Tomorrow."